

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a media file, the method comprising:  
~~enabling a customer to generate~~ generating a media file identifier for a known media file;

~~storing the media file identifier for the known media file in a database;~~

searching a ~~collection of machine-readable data~~ network based on exclusion information to locate an unknown media file therein;

generating a media file identifier for the unknown media file located based on the search in the collection of machine-readable data, wherein the media file identifier is generated for the located unknown media file using an up-down coding algorithm for audio data in the located unknown media file;

~~determining an address of the unknown media file in the collection of machine readable data;~~

~~storing the media file identifier for the unknown media file in the database;~~

~~storing the address of the unknown media file in the database;~~

~~associating the stored address of the unknown media file with the stored media file identifier for the unknown media file; and~~

comparing the media file identifier for the known media file with the media file identifier for unknown media file in order to determine if the respective media files from which the known media file identifier and the unknown media file identifier were generated have sufficiently similar media content.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 1, wherein the machine-readable data resides on a computer network~~ of Claim 1, wherein generating the media file identifier for a known media file, further comprises enabling a customer to generate the media file identifier.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 2, The~~

method of Claim 2, wherein the ~~computer~~ network includes the Internet.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in of~~  
claim 3, wherein the searching is accomplished by a crawler.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in of~~  
claim 4, wherein the crawler is capable of searching a network site based on an address for the  
network site provided by an administrator.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in of~~ claim  
~~[[5]]~~4, wherein the crawler is further capable of analyzing ~~[[the]]~~ machine readable data residing on  
the network site to generate an address of another network site to be searched.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method of for identifying a media file as defined in~~  
claim ~~[[6]]~~1, wherein the generating of the media file identifier for the unknown media file  
further comprises downloading the unknown media file and then analyzing the unknown  
media file with an identifier generating algorithm.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in of~~ claim  
~~[[7]]~~1 wherein the unknown media file is a streaming media file and wherein the generating of the  
media file identifier for the unknown media file utilizing the identifier generating algorithm is  
accomplished by playing the unknown media file as a stream of data and analyzing the stream of  
media data with the identifier generating algorithm as the stream is received by the crawler.
9. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a media file, the method comprising:  
enabling a customer to generate a media file identifier for a known media file;  
storing the media file identifier for the known media file in a database;  
searching, using a crawler, a collection of machine readable data residing on a  
computer network that includes the Internet based on exclusion information to locate an unknown

media file therein, wherein the unknown media file is an audio file, wherein the crawler is capable of searching a network site based on an address for the network site provided by an administrator, and is further capable of analyzing the machine readable data residing on the network site to generate an address of another network site to be searched;

generating a media file identifier for the unknown media file located in the collection of machine readable data by downloading the unknown media file and then analyzing the unknown media file with an identifier generating algorithm, and wherein the identifier generating algorithm is an up-down coding algorithm;

determining an address of the unknown media file in the collection of machine readable data;

storing the media file identifier for the unknown media file in the database;

storing the address of the unknown media file in a the database;

associating the stored address of the unknown media file with the stored media file identifier for the unknown media file; and

comparing the media file identifier for the known media file with the media file identifier for unknown media file in order to determine if the respective media files from which the known media file identifier and the unknown media file identifier were generated have sufficiently similar media content.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method of Claim 1 for identifying a media file as defined in claim 7, wherein a word count algorithm is used to generate the media file identifier for video data in the unknown media file and to generate the media file identifier for video data in the known media file is a video file and wherein the identifier generating algorithm is a word count algorithm.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying media file as defined in claim 1, of claim 1, further comprising providing [[the]] an address of the unknown media file in response to a determination that the known media file identifier and the unknown media file identifier were generated from media files having sufficiently similar media content.~~

12. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 11, further comprising providing metadata that includes information sufficient to identify the unknown media file, storing the metadata in a database and associating the metadata with the unknown media file.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 1, wherein the generating of the media file identifier for the unknown media file is accomplished by analyzing the unknown media file with an identifier generating algorithm and wherein the providing a media file identifier for the known media file is accomplished by analyzing the known media file with the identifier generating algorithm.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a media file, the method comprising:  
enabling a customer to generate a media file identifier for a known media file;  
storing the media file identifier for the known media file in a database;  
searching a collection of machine readable data based on exclusion information to locate an unknown media file therein, the unknown media file is an audio file;  
generating a media file identifier for the unknown media file located in the collection of machine readable data, by analyzing the unknown media file with an up-down coding identifier generating algorithm and wherein the providing a media file identifier for the known media file is accomplished by analyzing the known media file with the identifier generating algorithm;  
determining an address of the unknown media file in the collection of machine readable data;  
storing the media file identifier for the unknown media file in the database;  
storing the address of the unknown media file in the database;  
associating the stored address of the unknown media file with the stored media file identifier for the unknown media file; and

comparing the media file identifier for the known media file with the media file identifier for unknown media file in order to determine if the respective media files from which the known media file identifier and the unknown media file identifier were generated have sufficiently similar media content.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method of for identifying a media file as defined in claim 15, wherein the unknown media file is a~~ further includes video file data and wherein the identifier generating algorithm is a word count algorithm for the video data.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 1, further comprising providing metadata that includes information sufficient to identify the known media file, storing the metadata in the database and associating the metadata with the known media file.

20. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 19, wherein the searching is accomplished by a crawler.

21. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 20, wherein the crawler is capable of searching a network site based on an address for the network site provided by an administrator.

22. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 21, wherein the crawler is further capable of analyzing the machine readable data residing on the network site to generate an address of another network site to be searched.

23. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 22, wherein the generating of the media file identifier for the unknown media file utilizing the identifier generating algorithm is accomplished by downloading the unknown media file and then

analyzing the unknown media file with the identifier generating algorithm.

24. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 22, wherein the unknown media file is a streaming media file and wherein the generating of the media file identifier for the unknown media file utilizing the identifier generating algorithm is accomplished by playing the unknown media file as a stream and analyzing the stream of media data with the identifier generating algorithm as the stream is received by the crawler.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The method for identifying a media file as defined in~~ of claim 22, wherein the crawler is implemented by a plurality of computers distributed throughout the ~~computer~~ network and wherein the searching is accomplished by the plurality of computers searching the network ~~site~~ simultaneously.

26. (Original) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 25, wherein the crawler controls the plurality of computers so as to mimic the behavior of a human user searching the network site.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a media file resident on a network, the method comprising:

creating a media file identifier by analyzing a known media file using an identifier generating algorithm selected by a customer;

storing the known media file identifier in a database;

creating a media file identifier for an unknown media file with the identifier generating algorithm, wherein the unknown media file is determined based, in part, on exclusion information, and wherein the identifier generating algorithm is an up-down algorithm for audio data in the unknown media file; and

comparing the media file identifier for the unknown media file with the known media file identifier in order to determine if the respective media files from which the unknown media file identifier and the known media file identifier were generated include identical media content.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

storing in the database metadata for the known media file, the metadata providing information sufficient to identify the known media file for which it is stored; associating the metadata for the known media file with the known media file identifier so that the identity of the unknown media file can be determined in the event that unknown media file and the known media file are determined to have been generated from media files having identical media content.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein:

the unknown media file and the known media file ~~are video files~~ further comprise video data;

each media file contains computer readable code encoding a series of images; the images in each series in each media file are encoded as a plurality of words;

the creating the known media file identifier comprises counting the words used to encode selected images of the known video file;

the creating a media file identifier for the unknown media file comprises counting the words used to encode selected images thereof; and

the comparing comprises comparing the number of words used to encode the selected images of the known media file with the number of words used to encode the selected images of the unknown media file.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the images in each the series of images are encoded as a GOP.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the creating a media file identifier for an unknown media file comprises sequentially generating word counts for selected successive images in the unknown media file, and the comparing comprises comparing the word counts of images of the unknown media file as they are generated with the word counts of corresponding images of the

known media files; and terminating the generating and the comparing if a sufficiently close match is found, or when the word count of each unknown image in the sequence of unknown images has been compared.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method for identifying a media file resident on a network, the method comprising:

- creating a media file identifier by analyzing a known media file using an identifier generating algorithm selected by a customer wherein the content of the known media file is an audio file that includes an encoded audio signal, and the identifier generating algorithm is an up-down coding algorithm;

- storing the known media file identifier in a database;

- creating a media file identifier for an unknown media file with the identifier generating algorithm, wherein the unknown media file is determined based, in part, on exclusion information;

- storing in the database metadata for the known media file, the metadata providing information sufficient to identify the known media file for which it is stored;

- associating the metadata for the known media file with the known media file identifier so that the identity of the unknown media file can be determined in the event that unknown media file and the known media file are determined to have been generated from media files having identical media content; and

- comparing the media file identifier for the unknown media file with the known media file identifier in order to determine if the respective media files from which the unknown media file identifier and the known media file identifier were generated include identical media content.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the up-down coding algorithm is used on the entire audio file.





40. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~The apparatus as defined in of claim 39, wherein the unknown media file and each known media file ~~are video files further comprise video data~~, each media file ~~containing~~ including computer readable code encoding a series of images including a plurality of words; wherein the apparatus further includes at least one module configured to create known media file identifiers by counting the words used to encode selected images of each known media file that further comprises video data ~~video file~~, wherein the apparatus further includes at least one module configured to create a media file identifier for an unknown media file by counting the words used to encode selected images thereof, and

wherein the at least one module for comparing is configured to compare the number of words used to encode selected images of each known media file with the number of words used to encode selected images of the unknown media file.

41. (Original) An apparatus as defined in claim 40, wherein the images in each the series of images are encoded as a GOP.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as defined in claim 40, wherein the at least one module configured to create the media file identifier for the unknown media file includes at least one module for sequentially generating word counts for successive images in the unknown media file,

wherein the at least one module configured to create media file identifiers for a known media file includes at least one module configured to generate word counts for successive images in each known media file and the at least one module configured to compare includes at least one module configured to compare each unknown image identifier to corresponding image identifiers for the known media files as they are generated, and wherein the apparatus further includes at least one module configured to terminate the at least one module configured to generate and the at least one module configured to compare when at least one sufficiently close match is found, or when each unknown image identifier in the sequence of unknown image identifiers has been compared.

43. (Canceled)

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comprises at least one module configured to access the Internet in a coordinated manner from a plurality of web addresses.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a media file as defined in claim 7, wherein the unknown media file further comprises video data ~~is a video file~~ and wherein the identifier generating algorithm is a warp algorithm.

50. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying a media file resident on a network, the method comprising:

- creating a media file identifier by analyzing a known media file using an up-down coding identifier generating algorithm;

- storing the known media file identifier in a database;

- creating a media file identifier for an unknown media file with the selected identifier generating algorithm, wherein the unknown media file is determined based, in part, on exclusion information; and

- comparing the media file identifier for the unknown media file with the known media file identifier in order to determine if the respective media files from which the unknown media file identifier and the known media file identifier were generated include sufficiently similar media content.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein creating the media file identifier further comprises analyzing the known media file using at least one other identifier generating algorithm that is selectable by a customer from a plurality of standalone identifier generating algorithms consisting of a word count algorithm and a warp algorithm.